

GOVERNOR'S
REASONS
FOR VETO:

"The highly extraordinary regulatory powers granted to the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority in this bill are not necessary to the accomplishment of the purposes for which the authority was created."

SPONSOR'S
VIEW:

Sen. Sharp said he and Rep. Armbrister, the House sponsor, asked the Governor to veto this bill. The bill dealt with a local problem in Victoria County. Sharp said "a bunch of people on motorcycles and in four-wheel drive pickups" had disturbed residents of creekside areas with firearms violations, vandalism, dangerous driving, and other behavior. It had seemed desirable to give the river authority more power to deal with the problem. But after considerable bad publicity and an outcry from landowners and sun-bathers in the area, local law enforcement took care of the problem. There hasn't been any trouble for months, so the bill isn't really necessary, Sen. Sharp said.

Bypassing Purchasing Commission for certain purchases
(SB 1221, by Blake)

DIGEST:

SB 1221 would have allowed state agencies to make certain purchases without going through the State Purchasing and General Services Commission. Invoices and purchase vouchers would have been sent directly to the Comptroller.

GOVERNOR'S
REASONS
FOR VETO:

"The safeguards provided by the current system of checks and balances far outweigh the short acceleration in payments provided by this bill."

SPONSOR'S
VIEW:

Sen. Blake said the Governor's veto was evidently based on the State Auditor's objections to this Comptroller-backed bill. Blake's only complaint was that the objections were not raised during any committee meeting; he noted that the bill passed both the Senate and House on the uncontested calendar.

Uniform statutory county courts
(HB 36, by A. Hill et al.)

DIGEST: This bill would have changed the name of all existing county-courts-at-law to circuit courts. The circuit courts would have had uniform jurisdiction and procedure, subject to specific exceptions.

GOVERNOR'S
REASON FOR
VETO:

The bill contains technical errors and invites different interpretations concerning judges' salaries and the jurisdiction of the circuit courts. The bill does not adequately address the existing confusing and varying laws on statutory county courts.

SPONSOR'S
VIEW:

Rep. Hill said she understood the reasons for the veto. The bill passed on the last night of the session and several last-minute amendments were added that created constitutional problems. She said the problems are being solved and she will reintroduce the bill in the next special session.

NOTES: The HSG analysis of this bill appeared in the May 2 Daily Floor Report.

Bidding on state employees' group-insurance contract
(HB 149, by Presnal)

DIGEST: The bill would have required the trustees of the Employee Retirement System to take competitive bids on the state's group insurance plan only once every six years, instead of once every three. It would also have removed the current requirement that trustees take bids each time a change in the amount or type of coverage occurs.

GOVERNOR'S
REASONS
FOR VETO:

The bill would have reduced competition for the state's group-insurance contract by allowing ERS to take bids less often. Since health-care costs are uncertain and a bid would have to cover six years' anticipated cost increases, the bill would also generate inflated bids and thus higher premiums.